Challenge.gov
Government Challenges, Your Solutions

WINNER PROFILE

Meet: Amos Winter, Assistant Professor, and Natasha Wright, Ph.D. Candidate MIT, Cambridge, Massachussetts

The Challenge: DESAL Prize

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Bureau of Reclamation challenged innovators around the world to create cost-effective, energy-efficient, sustainable desalination technologies to provide water for people and crops.

The Prize:

$140,000

The Solution:

The MIT team designed a solar-powered system that removes salt from water with electricity and uses ultraviolet rays to disinfect the water.

SUCCESS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

How has participating in this challenge helped you advance your solution?

Winning the DESAL Prize has opened many doors for our technology. We are currently working with the USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission, and the UNICEF Gaza Office to implement our technology in Gaza. The Prize has also given us significant exposure, which has drawn the interest of many companies. We recently signed a three-year research collaboration with Tata Projects, which is a large infrastructure company in India.

What is the impact of your solution for government, your community and society?

The impact thus far has been showing the potential for photovoltaic-powered electrodialysis to be a scalable, sustainable, and affordable desalination technology for rural areas of developing countries. We are now embarking on the research to move the technology towards a commercial product that could be affordable by small, off-grid communities and farmers.

For More About the Winner:

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GSA